



Nettalk

Free East Timor Coalition

UPDATE (9) Spring 1997

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National Coalition Launched

The *Free East Timor Coalition*, a national coalition of East Timor solidarity groups around Aotearoa got off the ground on September 14 in Whaingaroa, near Hamilton.

Around twenty one activists from six different centres met in Whaingaroa (Raglan) over the weekend of 12-14 September and successfully hammered out a common programme and structure for a new national organization, to be known as the Free East Timor Coalition.

Present were activists from all four main centres, plus Whangarei and Kirikiriroa (Hamilton) as well as representatives of NGOs who are active on East Timor issues.

Priorities for the new coalition will be: ending NZ's military links with Indonesia; highlighting Australia's role; pressing the NZ Government to support East Timorese self-determination; and highlighting aspects of the Indonesian occupation, such as the treatment of East Timorese women and the role of multi-national corporations profiting from East Timor.

The new coalition called for supporters to participate in demonstrations or other

activites in their local areas on at least two "National Days of Action" for East Timor. The first, November 12 is the anniversary of the 1991 Dili Masacre, and the second, December 7, the 22nd anniversary of Indonesia's invasion.

"These two days provide an important focus for East Timor solidarity actions around the world" said a spokesperson for the new coalition. "On these days, there will be some kind of activity organized in at least the six centres represented by the Free East Timor Coalition, and possibly others in other centres too. We urge everyone who wants justice in East Timor to get out there and help make these activities a success."

Several organizational decisions were also taken at the meeting, including one to produce this newsletter regularly every quarter.

Activists pooled their resources and their experience and created a good basis for significantly extending solidarity

work on East Timor over the next couple of years.

For information about East Timor solidarity activites near you, contact these addresses:

Whangarei:

Tim Howard RD 9 Maunu
Ph/Fax 09 4346633

E-Mail the-farm@ihug.co.nz

Tamaki Makau Rau (Auckland)

Maire Leadbeater
Box 68419 Ph 09 8493890

E-Mail calliope@ihug.co.nz

Kirikiriroa (Hamilton)

Hamilton Corso Box 9437
Ph 07 8391246

E-Mail corso@ihug.co.nz

Te Whanganui a Tara (Wellington)

Jo Buchanan Box 12345
Ph/Fax 04 6789012

E-Mail eco@reddfish.co.nz

Otautahi (Christchurch)

Joe Davies/Gaye Dyson
Box 1905 Ph 03 3662803

E-Mail
etic@corso.ch.planet.gen.nz

Otepoti (Dunedin)

Marie Laufiso Box 1375
Ph 04 4773395 Fax 4740736
E-Mail corso@earthlight.co.nz

Initiative by Nobel Peace Laureates

That Nelson Mandela, himself a former political prisoner and Nobel laureate, is seeking to break the deadlock is considered significant because the South African leader is not just another Western leader lecturing Indonesia on human rights.

Indonesia has rejected President Mandela's offer to mediate, but President Suharto has accepted an invitation to visit South Africa later this year and many believe Mr Mandela still has the Indonesian leader's ear.

Other Nobel laureates and luminaries have also urged President Suharto to back efforts by UN chief Mr Kofi Annan and

Mr Mandela to help resolve the conflict.

The group including the former Australian Foreign Minister Mr Gareth Evans made the appeal in a letter to the Indonesian president, it was reported yesterday.

Of his talks with President Mandela, Gusmao says: "I was greatly honoured. It means our struggle is being respected and

acknowledged."

Gusmao believes the Nobel Peace prizes are an important part of the new international momentum which has seen the United States and Europe step up pressure on Jakarta over human rights abuses.

"I think they [the Nobel prizes] will continuously promote the East Timorese issue around the world. One action always has a connection to another. So the Nobel Peace awards and President Mandela voicing his opinion about my release are connected."

Gusmao says Australian-based Ramos Horta is his representative in the outside world. Just what practical role Gusmao plays from jail remains deliberately vague.

"I am not just a symbol," he says. "Well, physically, my body is here in prison, but my spirit talks through Ramos Horta so the body might be Horta's but the spirit is mine. When he talks to the world it is actually me who is talking."

Gusmao is not troubled by the recent escalation in the conflict, including a series of attacks on police and civilians which killed more than 30 people in a single month and prompted a military crackdown across the province.

"If it's too quiet then the Government will think everything is fine. So riots are part of the strategy, too. I regret the death of civilians, but this is war."

Intel Kills Couple

Lisbon, Sept 22 (Lusa) - An East Timorese couple have been killed by Indonesia's intelligence service, Intel, the East Timorese Socialist Association (AST) has said.

Quoting clandestine sources, the resistance movement said in a statement that the two had been killed on September 17 inside their house.

AST said also four East Timorese youths had been arrested, and that it did not know their whereabouts.

The activities of Intel, Indonesia's counter-insurgency agency, has increased lately.

East Timor Health Damned

East Timorese distrust Indonesian-run health facilities according to a recent report from two senior English medical students, recently returned from a fact finding investigation into the health of the East Timorese.

The students found the people of East Timor suffer from severe malnutrition and a major tuberculosis epidemic.

They report that the East Timorese avoid the *pukesmas*, Indonesia's health centres. They also report that sterilization of women appears to continue, justifying the fear.

Report on sterilization on page 11

Guerrilla Leader David Alex Captured, Killed

David Alex, charismatic second-in-command of Falintil, the armed wing of the East Timorese resistance, died on June 25 after being captured by Indonesian soldiers.

Cmdr Alex was captured with five companions near Kaibada, a small town near Baucau, about 60kms east of the capital, Dili.

Conflicting reports surround his capture. Indonesian sources reported a fierce gun battle when they captured Alex, resulting in serious gunshot wounds to his hand and thigh. They say he died on the operating table receiving treatment for these wounds.

But resistance sources say the six men were not armed and that all were captured unharmed, without resistance.

Just to add to the confusion, an Indonesian army spokesperson later came out with a different version of Alex's death. Two weeks after the fact, he claimed in conversation with a US senator that Alex had been "shot while trying to escape".

In civilian life, Alex was a teacher. He had endured the hardships of life with the guerrillas in the mountains for 22 years. Journalist Dom Rotheroe, who followed David Alex and his team into the mountains recently describes him:

"It is a sight I will never forget, this frail looking 49 year old with bad feet, bad stomach, the constant whisper, heading into the onslaught with absolute in-

domitability. Watching this man snap into decisive, fearless action, I begin to learn the definition of real bravery. It is neither foolhardy, vengeful or careless. It is simply necessary."

David Alex himself said:

"Justice is our strength. Our support base is our people and it is our duty to mobilise them. Because of this even though we

"Justice is our strength.

We still have faith we will win"

- Cmdr David Alex.

cannot expel the Indonesian Army from East Timor we still have faith that we will win."

The capture and subsequent death of Cmdr Alex, which the Indonesians rightly claim is a serious blow for the resistance, comes amid a massive security clampdown in the wake of a resurgence in guerrilla activity in East Timor.

During the recent Indonesian elections, Falintil staged a number of military operations designed to demonstrate continued opposition to Indonesian rule. In one incident, 18 police troops and one soldier were killed when guerrillas lobbed a single grenade into the back of an army transport truck.

Indonesia has responded to this

increased guerrilla activity by closing East Timor to foreign journalists and taking reprisals among the civilian population. Massive numbers of troops have been moved into the already heavily militarized territory. Up to 200 people have so far been arrested, detained and tortured and some others have been killed.

The clampdown continues unabated. Intense Indonesian military operations have been focussed on the area around Quelicai, near

Baucau, where the grenade attack took place.

But despite the death of David Alex and the innumerable security clampdowns they have to endure, morale remains high among the people of East Timor.

Jose Ramos-Horta remarked that "There is a David and Goliath nature to the war waged against the East Timorese... David Alex is dead. There will be others to take over his command. In 1978 the Indonesians failed to destroy Falintil with the killing of Nicolau Lobato - there was Xanana to lead the armed resistance. When Xanana was arrested in 1992, the armed struggle continued under Konis Santana."

Military Co-Operation With Indonesia

Forty Auckland activists marked July 17 and 21 anniversary of the date that Indonesia formally "incorporated" East Timor with a lively demonstration outside the Army Defence Headquarters in Great North Rd.

The action targeted New Zealand's continuing military training ties with Indonesia and made use of our new display of photographs of Indonesian military engaged in torture.

Mini street theatre with masked look-a-likes of President Suharto and Don McKinnon added spice to the proceedings before a delegation took a letter for the commander - Captain Tuatini - to the locked door of the headquarters. The receptionist seemed to have abandoned his post but a junior officer cautiously opened up to accept our letter politely but without comment.

Public sympathy was evident and it was great to have strong support from the student contingent.

Our letter to Captain Tuatini was copied to the Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs and reminded them:

"Since 1973 New Zealand has given training aid to Indonesian military personnel under the Mutual Assistance Program, (MAP). New Zealand instructors run courses in Indonesia and each year around 30 Indonesians come here for training."

The New Zealand Army trains Indonesian infantry officers, small arms, combat instructors, and demolitions supervi-



Auckland ETIC protest NZ's military Links with Indonesia

sors. The Navy trains divers and midshipmen, while the Air force trains maintenance technicians for A4 Skyhawks. Indonesian Airforce Skyhawks were used in bombing missions in East Timor in the 1983/4 offensive, specialising in incendiary, cluster and anti-personnel bombing.

Each year the New Zealand Army trains military dentists and dental technicians

Recalling Bishop Belo's pleas to western countries not to sell arms to Indonesia on account of the "dreadful consequences" for the people of East Timor, we stressed the urgency of an immediate end to all military aid to Indonesia.

As we demonstrated New Zealand naval vessels - the frigate HMNZS Canterbury and the tanker ship HMNZS Endeavour - were setting off to take part with Indonesia in Exercise Kakadu in the Timor sea.

Skyhawk and Orion aircraft also took part in the exercise which began on July 28.

Auckland ETIC condemned the Australian hosted exercise and our participation in it in a Media Release:

"Why are we taking part in war games with the military of the regime that is responsible for the brutal repression of the people of East Timor? The situation there is deteriorating and a media blackout is in force in the territory.

Action Alert:

Let the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Don McKinnon, the Minister of Defence, Paul East and your own M.P. know what you think about military co-operation with Indonesia. The address is Parliament Buildings, Wellington and you do not need a stamp.

- From ETIC Auckland

Major Benefit Concert to Feature East Timor

A major benefit concert for East Timor caps a year of solidarity activity for East Timor in Otepotei (Dunedin).

A major benefit concert is set to put East Timor on the map in Otepotei (Dunedin) in November.

Scheduled to be held in the Town Hall on November 8, the concert already has the town's young people abuzz.

Already confirmed for the concert are Auckland rappers South Side of Bombay, along with Che Fu and DLT, East Timorese recording artist Agio Pereira (flying in from Melbourne), South Island blues artist Paul Ubana Jones and several local performers.

Billed as "8 hours of music, song and dance", the concert will begin at 4pm and go through until midnight. Tickets cost \$20 (\$8 for children 8-14yrs).

Much of the planning for the concert still depends on funding, but the organizers are hopeful that some sponsorship will eventuate and at this stage, it looks

as though ticket sales will justify their expectations.

The benefit concert caps off a year of heightened East Timor solidarity activity in Otepotei. Earlier this year, the local Corso group, which represents the national Free East Timor Coalition in Otepotei, organized public the launch of a range of cards produced by the East Timor Relief Association, based in Sydney. The cards promoted the peace plan for East Timor and called for the release of Xanana Gusmao.

The cards were produced to raise funds for ETRA and to raise awareness about East Timor among the public. The launch managed to attract the patron-



Information stall - Otepotei
age of Dunedin's mayor, Sukhi Turner, who officially opened the launch in the Octagon.

Otepotei activists report a steady interest among especially young people in the town, and the concert should cement the issue in the public mind.

If you wish to contact the organizers, either for a ticket or for information on the group, contact:

Corso
Box 1375
Otepotei (Dunedin)
Ph (03) 4773395
Fax (03) 4740736
E-mail:
corso@earthlight.co.nz



Invasion Day Demo - Octagon

NZ Government - a glimmer of hope?

In March the Minister of Foreign Affairs turned down Auckland ETIC's suggestion that he call for permanent United Nations human rights monitoring in East Timor.

He cited opposition from Secretary of State, Moerdiono who said it would breach Indonesia's sovereignty if a U.N. Human Rights office were to be set up in Jakarta.

Mr McKinnon said he had had discussions with the UN Secretary General and believed it would be "inappropriate and counterproductive to intervene" between the United Na-

tions and a sovereign state in "such circumstances."

However, the need for a UN Human rights monitoring presence was one of the items stressed by Whangarei East Timor activist and recent visitor to East Timor, Tim Howard, when he and a small delegation met with McKinnon on July 17. After his meeting in Jakarta with counterpart Ali Alatas Mr McKinnon's media release included this sentence:

"Media access and a U.N. office in East Timor were also raised by Mr McKinnon."

Our Government has come

in for persistent lobbying over the past 6 months with agencies such as Corso, Oxfam, Caritas and Christian World Service joining in the effort.

However, it is not yet time to relax. On the same visit McKinnon said the Government planned to build "multi-faceted" and "comprehensive" relations with Indonesia, including military co-operation.

"Indonesia is one of the great power houses in the world. Despite that, some people find parts of Indonesia unpalatable. We need relationships including military."

ernment to revoke licences which contravene human rights criteria."

There is in fact plenty of evidence that Hawk aircraft have been used, but that misses the point. There is no question that a regime that has shown contempt for international law and opinion by its brutal occupation of East Timor for 22 years, and which has in the past used combat craft (of whatever provenance) against East Timor, might use any equipment at its disposal to further suppress the East Timorese people."

The British Government's intention to give "full weight" to the UK's national interests while "taking into account" respect for human rights leads Ann Clwyd to conclude: "Sadly, its business as usual."

Robin Cook Shoots Down Human Rights

In a no-holds barred opinion piece in the British Guardian Labour M.P. Ann Clwyd takes on the new British Minister of Foreign Affairs and his decision, made without House of Commons debate, to continue with delivery of defence equipment to Indonesia.

He refused to revoke licenses for the export of 16 Hawk aircraft valued at \$160 million, and 50 Scorpion armoured vehicles and Tactica water cannon.

Ann Clwyd urged Robin Cook to listen to Bishop Belo who had pleaded in unequivocal language:

"Please I beg you restrict still further the conditions under

which such trade is permitted. Do not sustain any longer a conflict which without these sales could never have been pursued in the first place, nor for so very long."

According to Ann Clwyd "there is clear and undisputed evidence that such equipment has in the past been used for internal repression in Indonesia and external aggression in East Timor, the very criteria which the Government is now committed to apply."

"If foreign policy shifts to give more emphasis to human rights, as the Labour Government claims it has, it would be perfectly proper for the Gov-

Nelson Mandela Weighs In

South African President Nelson Mandela has added his considerable political weight to United Nations efforts to find an internationally acceptable solution for the situation of East Timor. *Joe Davies* backgrounds the United Nations process and analyses the potential impact of South Africa's most famous freedom fighter.

The United Nations does not have a proud record of action against the illegal invasion and occupation of East Timor by Indonesia.

In the end, the best that can be said of the UN is that it has never buckled before Indonesian demands to recognize the "integration" of East Timor into Indonesia as that country's 27th province, thus preserving the official international legitimacy of East Timor's demands for independence.

Despite several General Assembly resolutions in favour of self-determination and calling on Indonesia to withdraw troops from the territory, all that the UN process has so far produced is a series of inconclusive meetings called the All Inclusive Intra-Timorese Dialogue (AIETD).

Consisting of a series of meetings in the small Austrian town of Burg-Schlaining, the AIETD has been used by Indonesia as a diversion in the face of international criticism. The rationale behind the talks, as promoted by Indonesia, is that there are "divisions" between the East Timorese, and the AIETD is an attempt to "unite" Timorese "factions" as a first

step towards more substantive talks between Indonesia, Portugal and representatives of the East Timorese.

This rationale produced a major embarrassment for Indonesia at an early AIETD meeting, when the pro-Indonesia delegation, consisting of Timorese hand-picked by Indonesia for their loyalty, defected to support the resistance.

Despite such occasional embarrassments, the AIETD process has served its purpose in that Indonesia has used it to deflect criticism. As long as the talks continued, the UN claimed to be fulfilling its obligations and East Timor tended to be swept under the international carpet.

With the appointment of Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 1996 however, the United Nations seems to have entered a new era of pro-active attention to East Timor.

One of Sec-Gen Annan's first acts was to appoint Pakistani diplomat Jamsheed Marker as his personal envoy in negotiations towards a "just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution" to the problem of East Timor.

Mr. Marker at once energetically plunged into the job, mak-

ing trips to Dili, Jakarta and Lisbon to talk to the protagonists.

This new UN process received an extra impetus when Nelson Mandela, charismatic leader of South Africa's liberation struggle and long time friend of President Suharto, entered the diplomatic fray by offering his "good offices".

President Mandela almost immediately managed the formerly unthinkable when he succeeded in meeting Xanana Gusmao over dinner in President Suharto's guest house. Shortly after this historic meeting, he issued a call for Xanana to be released, stating that this was a necessary precondition to achieving peace in the territory. Then early in September, he called for autonomy to be granted the people of East Timor.

Indonesia cautiously rejected both suggestions, claiming that East Timor is already as autonomous as it can be under Indonesian law, and that Xanana is a criminal, not a political prisoner.

Whether such intransigence can survive the international attention generated by Mr. Mandela's intervention remains to be seen.

Recent Documentaries

Both TVNZ and TV3 seem reluctant to run excellent recent East Timor documentaries offered to them by Australian producers.

"Sometimes I Must Speak Out Strongly" Gil Scrine Films.

A Max Stahl documentary about Bishop Belo.

Max Stahl shot the graphic footage of the Dili massacre in 1991 and here he includes not only recent events, but also rare archival footage from Portuguese colonial times to chronicle the experiences that shaped both Bishop Belo and his fellow Nobel Laureate Jose Ramos-Horta who is also interviewed in the film. There are new insights into history of East Timor's unique and many-faceted resistance.

Belo answers the charge that he is "too political":

"We are dealing with people, with the physical problem of the people. If they are beaten and they are tortured I'm not going to be silent and to approve that. So I don't know ... I can't distinguish the political issue and the moral issue.

If in front of me there is a person that is a human being, I must speak, I must talk out. And sometimes, I must talk out strongly and loudly."

"ABC Foreign Correspondent" Matthew Carney.

Matthew Carney, an Australian filmmaker, spent a month in the mountains with the guerrillas. The resulting documentary is compelling viewing. Carney's NETTALK Spring 1997 P 8

whispered interviews with guerrilla leader David Alex must be the last he was able to give before his death in mysterious circumstances on June 25.

Interviews with David Alex, with Taur Matan Ruak and with Commander Konis Santana illuminate the importance of armed struggle as a key component of the resistance.

David Alex:

"The Indonesians are conducting this operation because they say the guerrillas are the ones encouraging the youth. They know it is the armed struggle that keeps resistance hopes alive in the population, from the armed struggle to the students to the diplomatic struggle so therefore they want to kill us."

Other recent documentaries include "*Blockade*", also on time spent with the guerrillas and shown on Australian SBS last December, "*Grounding a Hawk With A Hammer*", shown on RTE Irish National TV, a British World In Action documentary screened on ITV in June, "*Making a Killing*", about British arms sales and military training aid to Indonesia, and a Canadian TVO documentary "*Bitter Paradise - the Sell-out of East Timor*" about the Canadian Government and business links to the Indonesian Government.

ETIC also has a copy of the Australian documentary pro-

duced by Jill Hickson "*There is Only One Word - Resist!*" - recent interviews with pro-democracy leaders in Indonesia and graphic footage of the July 27 1996 protests in Jakarta.

Action Alert:

Write to TVNZ and TV3 urging them to screen documentaries about East Timor. ETIC has offered copies of the Belo and ABC documentaries without any results so far.

Write to:

Gary Brown
Director of Programming
TV3 Network
Private Bag 92624
Symonds St
Auckland

and

Karen Bielecki
Programme Manager
TV1
Box 3819
Auckland

Nico Warouw - PRD International Representative

Recently Aotearoa hosted a visit from a representative of the Indonesian pro-democracy movement.

The visit of Nico Warouw to Aotearoa was an important first; first visit of an Indonesian pro-democracy advocate and the first time that an Indonesian has spoken out here with an endorsement of the East Timorese struggle for self-determination.

The PRD ranks a referendum in East Timor along with its four other policy demands such as repeal of Indonesia's 5 political laws which guide the rigged Indonesian election process.

Nico, youthful and articulate,

spoke to 35-40 people at the University of Auckland (Centre for Asian Studies) and addressed about 50 people at the Auckland Trades Hall later that evening.

He spoke to similar numbers at meetings in Hamilton, Christchurch and Wellington.

Media interviews, well timed on the day of the May 29 Indonesian election, included radio interviews on the National Programme, Paul Holmes and the "Kim Hill" show.

Nico was invited to Aotearoa

by the Alliance and a broad coalition of groups including the Peace Foundation, Radical Students Society, East Timor solidarity groups and Corso helped to host his meetings.

While he was in the country, Nico also met with a range of NGOs, student groups and trade unions.

The video "*There is Only One Word - Resist!*" is being used to promote ongoing solidarity with the Indonesian pro-democracy movement.

Indonesian Pro-Democracy Movement

The first anniversary of the July 27 military attack on Megawati Sukarnoputri supporters was commemorated in Jakarta with a peaceful protest. Once again there were arrests, injuries and people missing. Most of those arrested have since been released but some may be tried for 'spreading hatred against the Government'.

The commemoration was organized by the National Committee for Democratic Struggle which includes Megawati supporters, United Development Party (PPP) supporters, the Peoples Democratic Party (PRD) and other pro-democracy groups.

At the time of the elections a similar coalition of forces united under the slogan 'Mega Star People' representing a call for the opposition forces to unite to replace Suharto.

The Indonesian elections were widely condemned as fraudulent and the results were largely predictable - 74% to Suharto's Golkar Party - but there was a greatly reduced vote for the puppet PDI - with Megawati excluded - which went down to only 3% of votes compared to 15% in 1992.

Many democracy supporters spoiled their ballots or boycotted the elections.

Fourteen members of the

PRD, strong supporters of East Timorese self-determination, who were arrested around the July 27 1996 crackdown have been sentenced to prison terms of 18 months to 13 years. Budiman Sudjatmiko, chairperson of the PRD has the longest sentence while Dita Sari, woman trade unionist, was sentenced to six years.

Wilson, leader of the Indonesian People in Solidarity with the Maubere People (SPRIM) received a five year sentence.

Interviews from behind bars with Dita Sari, Sudjatmiko, Wilson and others can be seen on Jill Hickson's video "There is Only One Word - Resist!"

International News Briefs

AUSTRALIA

will not release the names of Indonesian troops who participate in joint training exercises, though it has no problem with releasing names from other countries. Senator Margetts wants training submitted to the same human rights guidelines which apply to defence exports. Australian journalists were banned from accompanying their ambassador in East Timor, and he dismissed Indonesian press coverage of his comments as "a complete fabrication".

Before his capture and alleged death in custody, East Timorese leader David Alex told an Australian student delegation that the Red Cross "can only help those who are captured. People need help with basics like food and clean water."

BRAZIL

's President Cardoso said Brazil supports "efforts being made to secure self-determination for the East Timorese". Brazil co-sponsored and voted in favour of the UN Commission on Human Rights Resolution on East Timor.

NORWAY

's state oil company Statoil, one of many exploring the lucrative Timor Gap, is the first to make some concession to Timorese sovereignty by awarding several East Timorese scholarships to study oil exploration in Norway.

UNITED STATES

legislation to halt F-16 fighter sales and military training for Indonesia was made redundant in June, when Suharto declined the fighter proposal and the training grant "to avoid obstacles to US/Indonesian relations". Congressional scrutiny of relations with Indonesia continues to heighten with current investigations into Indonesian donations to the US President and associates.

CANADA

has been approached to fill the gap left by U.S. blocking of military funding. Indonesia wants Canada to provide military training assistance, police training, regular joint navy exercises and a full-time Ottawa military attaché. Canadian East Timor supporters have called for the arrest of Suharto, under war crimes legislation which allows for the trial of crimes committed outside the country, when he arrives for the November APEC summit.

SWEDISH

arms firm Bofors reportedly approved the sale of \$1.6 million in missile parts to Indonesian in June and sold naval gun parts in July.

BRITAIN

's new government decided its "ethical" policies did not extend to current contracts for arms sales, and the controversial sale of \$256 million worth of Hawk fighters and armoured vehicles will proceed as planned. There is nothing to stop the govern-

ment granting future licences for lethal equipment.

* Britain will soon approve a range of defence equipment contracts with Indonesia on the understanding they will be used to protect the country's oil and gas industry, a press report said here on Saturday.

The Financial Times said the equipment was mainly intended for use in the giant Natuna gasfield, which falls in an area of the South China sea disputed by China but which continues to attract huge Western and Asian investment.

It said the move was expected to involve the approval in the coming weeks of dozens of export licences for military equipment, including air defence systems and artillery.

This was in addition to the controversial sale of 16 Hawk fighters and Scorpion tanks which Britain recently decided not to block.

British officials told the FT they believed it would be possible to defend further sales to Indonesia despite continuing allegations from human rights groups that British defence equipment has been used by the Jakarta regime to suppress political opposition.

Sales of military hardware dominate Britain's exports to Indonesia, totalling 700 million dollars in 1996, or more than half the overall figure of 1.342 billion dollars.

Britain is the second largest investor in the country, behind Japan, although projections for 1997 indicate it will slip to third place behind Taiwan.

Women In East Timor - Report

East Timor Human Rights Centre in Melbourne published a report on abuses against women in East Timor titled "From One Day to Another: Violations of Women's Reproductive and Sexual Rights in East Timor".

It examines the Indonesian government's use of the health system to covertly sterilize Timorese women, the covert use of injectable hormonal con-

traceptives, and other violations including rape, forced marriage and sexual servitude.

For further information, contact:

(Australia) Maria Brett, East Timor Human Rights Centre, tel. 61 3 9415-8225

E-mail etchrmel@peg.apc.org.

(U.S.) Miranda Sissons, Yale University, tel. 1 203 782-1413

E-mail:

sissons@pantheon.yale.edu.

East Timor's "Comfort Women" - Research Report

A paper presented at Oporto University's course on Timor and Indonesia (July 17 - August 7, 1997) by Jean Inglis of Kure (Japan) YWCA East Timor Concerns Group, titled "Righting the Wrongs of Sexual Abuse by the Military against the Women of East Timor: Lessons from the Struggle of the 'Comfort Women'", outlines the struggles of sexual slaves of Japan's WWII military state-operated brothels from a number of Asian countries, including Indonesia, for recognition and reparation.

It recommends that Portuguese authorities and historians research East Timor's WWII comfort women, and Indonesian NGOs take care they do not acquiesce to any Indonesian

Government claim to speak on behalf of the women. It also calls for the needs of women to be kept in mind when asking UN agencies or individual governments to send independent human rights monitors to East Timor.

The paper notes that the Japanese Foreign Ministry denies the existence of an agreement or of any request by the Indonesian government to compensate former WWII "comfort women" (military sexual slaves) from East Timor, as had been reported in an Indonesia Times article dated April 17, 1997.

The paper is on the World Wide Web at
<http://shell.ihug.co.nz/~calliope/Timor.Women/inglis>.

Enforced Sterilization Continues

Two senior medical students have found that enforced sterilization of Timorese women appears to be continuing despite Indonesian claims to the contrary.

"We heard a story from a very reliable source of a woman coming to the clinic with high blood pressure. High blood pressure can be a side effect of contraceptive treatment. When asked whether she was on any contraception, the lady replied not. And when asked if she was on any other kind of medication she said, 'Only an injection I'm receiving every 3 months from the Puskesmas (Indonesian-run health centres) for general good health.'

This woman had not had any children for the past five years. Her last child had been born 5 years ago, and she was not aware of using any form of contraception. It could easily be that she was being injected with Depo Provera without any knowledge of this herself and that was the cause of her hypertension. The point is that Puskesmas have targets to reach for coverage of women's contraception and there are financial and other incentives for reaching those targets. This is a big pressure on the personnel in the Puskesmas."

Bureaucracy Delays Embassy Asylum Seekers

Six East Timorese seeking refuge at the Australia embassy in Jakarta, asking to leave for Portugal are still in the mission pending clearance of their request by the Portuguese and Indonesian authorities.

The six, including two children, entered the embassy on

Friday, September 19.

Quoting a fax by the International Red Cross Committee, the Portuguese Red Cross confirmed also that the East Timorese would not leave Indonesia on Monday as previously announced by the international organisation.

Apparently, difficulties in

confirming the identity of some of the six are responsible for the delays.

Meanwhile, four Timorese who in June were ejected from the Bulgarian embassy in Jakarta after seeking asylum have been jailed by Indonesia for two months and 15 days each.

Since September 1993, more than 135 East Timorese have sought refuge in foreign embassies in Jakarta before leaving for Portugal, via the Netherlands.

Sender: East Timor Independence Committee PO Box 68 419 Tamaki Makau Rau (Auckland)

Postage

Permit No 2710

Paid

Cultus Petroleum - NZ in for Timor Sea Oil

Cultus Petroleum consortium is to explore for oil in the Timor Sea. The block is AC95-3 off Northern Australia near the Jabiru oilfield. Cultus will drill two wells and undertake seismic acquisition and reprocessing during the first three year period of the six year permit term.

Australia and Indonesia

carved up the Timor Sea to make a killing from the rich oil and gas resources in the area. Now New Zealand is to benefit from the 'stolen property'.

Auckland launches its Cultus campaign with a visit to the Queen Street offices of Fay Richwhite (a major shareholder in Cultus) on the November 12 anniversary of the Dili massacre.

East Timor for Beginners

This excellent book put out by APCET (Asia pacific Coalition for East Timor) contains a valuable summary of the East Timor issue in highly readable form with lively graphics.

Available from Auckland ETIC for \$10.00